

The Benton-Franklin District Health Department's laboratory, located in our Richland office, is certified by the Washington State Department of Health and Department of Ecology to offer a wide variety of services in both drinking water and wastewater areas. We are proud to offer all these services to the public.

DRINKING WATER

Safe, clean drinking water plays an important role in keeping you and your family healthy and free from disease. If you own a single family (domestic) well, the safety of your drinking water is YOUR responsibility.

In Benton and Franklin Counties, the two most common contaminants of drinking water are coliform bacteria and nitrates.

Coliform Bacteria

Coliforms are a broad class of bacteria found throughout our environment and are used to indicate the **possible** presence of disease-causing organisms in drinking water called pathogens.



It is recommended that single family wells be tested for coliform bacteria at least once a year.

Nitrates

Nitrates (NO_3) are an essential source of nitrogen for plants. When nitrogen fertilizers are used to enrich soils, nitrates may be carried by rain, irrigation and other surface waters through the soil into ground water. In Benton and Franklin Counties, agricultural practices have been linked to



elevated levels of nitrates in ground water. Nitrates are a concern because elevated levels in drinking water have been known to cause a potentially fatal blood disorder in infants under 6 months of age called methemoglobinemia, or "blue-baby syndrome." It is recommended that single family wells be tested for nitrates at least once every three years. Test more often if you live in an area with a history of nitrate contamination of ground water and/or if you have infants under 6 months of age.

Fluoride



It is also recommended that you have your drinking water tested for fluoride to assist your dental care provider in assessing the need for fluoride supplements for your family. In Benton and Franklin Counties, community water suppliers DO NOT add fluoride to their drinking water systems. However, there are a few areas in which the natural concentration of fluoride in ground water meets or exceeds

the recommended levels. Consumption of excessively high levels of fluoride over a long period of time can cause mottled and discolored teeth in children and may even lead to damage of bone tissue.

The following routine drinking water tests are available:

Coliform bacteria
Nitrate
Fluoride

Additional testing is also available for:

Total Hardness
Heterotrophic Plate Count
Drinking water (MPN)
-Total Coliform
-Fecal Coliform
Total Dissolved Solids
Quanti-Tray (MPN)

Collection containers for drinking water samples, along with collection instructions, are available at any Benton-Franklin District Health Department office.

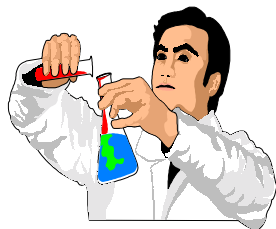


WASTEWATER

The Benton-Franklin District Health Department Laboratory also offers a number of tests for wastewater. These tests are offered as a service to ensure discharges to surface water or subsurface disposal are adequately treated. **All containers for sample submission must be supplied by the laboratory.** Please call the laboratory when you want to schedule analysis of a wastewater sample. Due to scheduling, the laboratory needs prior notice before submission of wastewater samples.

The following tests are available for wastewater:

Biological Oxygen Demand
Carbonatious BOD
Settleable Solids
Total Suspended Solids
Total Dissolved Solids
Volatile Suspended Solids
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen
Fecal Coliform
Residual Chlorine
Dissolved Oxygen
pH
Ammonia
Chloride
Nitrate
Total Coliform
Total Solids



For current prices on any of the above mentioned drinking water or wastewater tests, call any Benton-Franklin

District Health Department office or the Laboratory.

If you have additional needs beyond the parameters listed, or need additional information, contact:

Benton-Franklin Health District
Laboratory
471 Williams St.
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 943-2614 Ext. 234

Benton-Franklin Health District office locations:

Environmental Health
800 W. Canal Drive
Kennewick, WA 99336
582-7761 ext. 246

Richland
471 Williams St.
Richland, WA 99352
943-2614

Pasco
1218 N. Fourth
Pasco, WA 99301
547-9737

Prosser
310 7th Ave.
Prosser, WA 99350
786-1633

BFHD-E-0056
(Rev 1/98, 7/98, 7/99)

LABORATORY SERVICES

